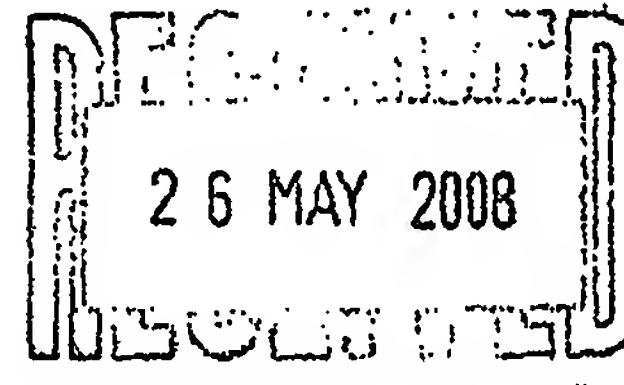


RF 221A

In Reply Please Quote Our Reference

Your Ref : LPN/LWC/NJ/K.2006004814
 Our Ref : 2006036792/080522/TMMHO/1246
 Date : 22/05/2008
 Writer's Direct Line : 63302748

ALLEN & GLEDHILL
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 ONE MARINA BOULEVARD
 SINGAPORE 018989



Dear Sir,

Singapore Patent Application No.: 200603679-2
 Title of invention: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, EXPOSURE METHOD, DEVICE PRODUCING
 METHOD, AND OPTICAL COMPONENT
 Applicant(s): NIKON CORPORATION (JP)

EXAMINATION REPORT

The Examination Report for this application has been established and a copy of it is attached.


Your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Patents Act and Patents Rules for further proceedings in relation to this application. In particular, you can now proceed to file a request for the issuance of a certificate of grant.

In this respect, please refer to sections 30 to 32 of the Patents Act and rules 47 to 50 of the Patents Rules, especially the prescribed time limits for any necessary action(s).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,


 Muhammad Haramain Osman
 for REGISTRAR OF PATENTS
 SINGAPORE

806060447

V-2 Q 1111 2000



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189189

Registry of Patents
Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
51 Bras Basah Road
#04-01 Plaza by the Park
SINGAPORE 189554

29 APR 2008

Attention: Registrar

RE: Singapore Application/Patent No. **0603679-2**

In the Name of: **Nikon Corporation (JP)**

IP05 29APR08 9:35

Please find attached the relevant completed:

- ☐ Search Report
- ☒ Examination Report
- ☐ Written Opinion
- ☐ Revocation/Re-examination Advisory Report
- ☐ Allowability of Opposed Amendments Advisory Report
- ☐ Infringements Advisory Report

and

- ☐ Citation/Annexes
- ☒ Priority Document and Citations (Singapore Office Copy)
- ☒ Invoice

Ashlea KINKADE
PCT Unit

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E-mail: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au

22/04/08

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
EXAMINATION REPORT



173173

Applicant's or agents file reference LPN/LWC/NJ/K.2006004814		
Application No. SG 200603679-2	Application Filing Date (day/month/year) 3 December 2004	Priority Date (day/month/year) 3 December 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) as indicated in the search report or the Request, if no indication in the search report/ Int. Cl. H01L 21/027 (2006.01) G02B 1/10 (2006.01) G03F 7/20 (2006.01) Action Date: 04 April 2008		
Applicant NIKON CORPORATION (JP)		

1. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets.

2. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|
| I | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Basis of the report |
| II | <input type="checkbox"/> | Priority |
| III | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| IV | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of unity of invention |
| V | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| VI | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain documents cited |
| VII | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain defects in the application |
| VIII | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certain observations on the application |



G00001

3. The search report used was issued by the Australian Patent Office and the date of completion is 20 June 2007.

Date of submission of the request to the Australian Patent Office 25 May 2007	Date of mailing of the report 23 APR 2008
Name and mailing address AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. 61 2 62853929	Authorized Officer JAYATI RAY



ACTION

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of

☐ the application as originally filed.

☒ the description, pages 1-129 , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the request,

pages , received on with the letter of

pages , received on with the letter of

☒ the claims, pages , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the request,

pages 130-153 , received on 27 March 2008 with the letter of 27 March 2008

pages , received on with the letter of

☒ the drawings, sheets/figs. 1-21 , as originally filed,

sheets/fig. , filed with the request,

sheets/fig. , received on with the letter of

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , received on with the letter of

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: pages:

sheets of drawings/figures No:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-103	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-103	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-103	YES
	Claims	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The following documents identified in the Singapore Search Report have been considered for the purpose of this report:

D1: JP 10-303114 A (NIKON CORP.) 13 November 1998

D2: JP 11-176727 A (NIKON CORP.) 02 July 1999.

D3: US 2003/0139620 A1 (Yamaguchi et al.) 24 July 2003

None of the citations alone, or in obvious combination, disclosed a member having a liquid repellent surface that is provided detachably and/or exchangeably on the substrate table in order to prevent any liquid from remaining left over on the substrate table. Hence claims 1-103 are novel and inventive.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY (IA)

The invention defined in claims 1-103 meets the requirements of industrial applicability because it can be made by, or used in, industry.

VIII. Certain observations on the application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

☒ The claimed invention is patentable according to Section 13(2); or

☐ The claimed invention is unpatentable according to Section 13(2) because:

☐ This application is a Divisional application filed under Section 26(6) of the Patents Act and discloses no additional matter extending beyond that disclosed in the Parent application.